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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
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Voluntary commitments for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/211, recalled that the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which would be held in Japan in 2015, would review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. In the same resolution, the Assembly "invited voluntary commitments by all stakeholders and their networks to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action as well as to support the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Further, the Assembly decided that the Third United Nations World Conference would have the objective, inter alia, of identifying modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

2. The present note discusses how States, other stakeholders and their networks have articulated commitments though various forums, including sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as regional platforms and meetings for disaster risk reduction. Participants at these platforms have been galvanized into committing to priority actions and global campaigns and have built alliances for implementation. This note also presents the announcements and voluntary commitments of stakeholders which have been published on the website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in support of implementing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Government announcements

3. Government announcements and initiatives, including both national and local governments, and parliamentarians, have been published on the website of UNISDR, and complement the official government statements made at the meetings

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of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva in 2014.

4. Several Governments announced further investments in national platforms and in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into national development policies as well as legal frameworks. Some Governments committed to the general strengthening of national platforms for disaster risk education. Others emphasized plans to strengthen the involvement of local governments, and the academic and science community, as well as the private sector, in their national platforms. There have also been governmental commitments to provide the human and financial resources required to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development policies and plans. Some Governments focused on key infrastructure by promoting school safety as part of the national planning and implementation agenda.

5. To many Governments, commitment to building the resilience of communities and local governments is a core priority. The specific announcements made include commitments related to warning systems for communities; supporting municipalities as they develop their disaster risk management plans; strengthening the role of civil defence; promoting education, awareness and training in order to build community resilience; focusing efforts on assessing and mitigating risk in special bioregions such as mountain communities; and mitigating the impacts of flooding and tsunamis on urban communities.

6. The importance of partnerships and information exchange has been highlighted by some Governments which are contributing to research and establishing scientific platforms for the development and implementation of innovative disaster risk reduction solutions; reinforcing the exchange of lessons, experiences and good practices; playing a decisive role in identifying the gaps between the needs of persons living with disabilities and disaster management cycles. Another Government has committed to initiating a coalition of low-lying delta countries and developing scientific institutions to advance an integrated approach to disaster resilience, while still others have focused on the importance of information and communication for effective disaster risk reduction, and made commitments to provide leadership in this area.

Voluntary commitments by stakeholders

7. As of February 2015, 65 voluntary commitments from stakeholders were posted on the UNISDR website and additional information is still being received. These initial commitments highlight the diversity of actions aimed at implementing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Additional commitments are being prepared for presentation at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015, including through working sessions in the multi-stakeholder segment. These commitments are presented below and are organized to encompass the national, regional and global scales.

8. At national level, building on the leadership, and strengthening of the capacities, of various stakeholders, including community leaders, youth and women, are highlighted in many voluntary commitments. Non-governmental and civil society organizations have committed to engaging in dialogue with Governments and national partners on future development priorities based on outcomes of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. At the local level, voluntary

commitments emphasize engaging stakeholders and addressing related issues such as food security, education and ecosystem management.

9. Regional-level actions are focused on developing policy frameworks that promote coherence among disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development, and strengthening legislative frameworks to enable risk-sensitive development and resilience-building. The importance is recognized of capacity-building tools, such as communication and education, collection, analysis and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data, risk assessment methodologies and promotion of traditional knowledge, and their development is also being pursued regionally, for instance, in Asia, Africa and Europe.

10. The majority of the commitments submitted by organizations have targeted actions that will benefit countries, communities and vulnerable groups at a global scale. Particular attention has been given to specific hazards such as those triggered by extreme wind, wildfires and nuclear accidents. Commitments to enhance technology transfer, establishment of databases and information dissemination have been put forward with a view to addressing these challenges.

11. Mobilizing support and building partnerships among the public and private sectors, risk management communities (including youth and women) and scientific and academic institutions, whose importance has been underscored in many commitments, are perceived as constituting a measure designed to implement the disaster risk reduction framework. The business and industry major group, for example, has committed to engaging with Governments on resilient and risk-sensitive financial investment and resilience- building rating systems, building knowledge and sharing best practices. The role of the members of this group will also entail bringing their experience to bear on public-private sector partnerships, and encouraging development and strengthening of laws and regulations, as well as programmes for disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

12. Sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held every two years, have yielded statements and commitments to do more, including prioritizing actions for disaster risk reduction in key areas. At the first session of the Global Platform, held in 2007, for example, States and other stakeholders committed to long-term funding for disaster risk reduction. At the second session, held in 2009, participants committed to greater investment in disaster risk reduction, national assessments and action plans for safer schools and hospitals. In particular, it was recommended that 10 per cent of relief, reconstruction and recovery budgets and 1 per cent of development budgets be allocated to disaster risk reduction. At the third session, in 2011, an increasingly large and diverse range of stakeholders reaffirmed and built upon previous commitments. Mayors renewed commitments to the 10 essentials for the campaign for making cities resilient. The private sector called for action through a statement of commitment for disaster prevention, resilience and risk reduction. Regional organizations reaffirmed their commitment to implement regional strategies that had been agreed upon in ministerial meetings worldwide.

13. At the fourth session of the Global Platform, held in 2013, private sector partners adopted a high-level statement which called on all stakeholders to advocate

for the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience as a central component of the post-2015 development agenda, and for countries to develop nationally agreed standards for hazard risk assessments, especially of critical infrastructure. The statement further called for a global safe schools and safe health structures campaign in disaster-prone areas with voluntary funding and commitments, to be announced at the Third United Nations World Conference in 2015; called on the private sector to integrate disaster risk considerations in risk management practices; and called for collaboration in risk management between the public and private sectors at the local and national levels.

Regional platforms for disaster risk reduction

14. Since 2005, States and other stakeholders have adopted specific and time-bound commitments at regional platforms and meetings. Importantly, many commitments are encapsulated within and monitored through regional plans and agreements. In Asia and the Pacific, for instance, the 2010 Incheon Regional Road Map and Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction through Climate Change Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific commits to specific verifiable targets and indicators for public and private investments, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as well as stakeholder-specific commitments to principles of disaster risk reduction.

15. In 2014, participants in regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in Africa, the Americas and Asia publicized statements of voluntary commitments to support the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Commitments were publicized by mayors and local government as well as civil society, the private sector, the science community, academia, media and specific advocacy groups. The Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network of Asia, for example, committed to strengthening community-based inclusive disaster risk reduction initiatives. Similarly, in the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, media stakeholders, including the Disaster Risk Reduction Network of Journalists of Africa, committed to develop their capacity in disaster management and to enhance collaboration among government, non-governmental organizations and journalists.

United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

16. Through the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which was endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in 2013, the Organization's entities have committed to a series of specific time- bound actions, with targets and indicators primarily focused on accelerating the integration of disaster risk reduction into all United Nations country-level operations. Individual organizations of the United Nations system, and the organizations of the United Nations system collectively, undertake three sets of actions: actions to ensure timely, coordinated assistance to all countries where disaster losses pose a threat to people's health and development; actions to make disaster risk reduction a priority for the United Nations system and organizations; and actions to ensure that disaster risk reduction for resilience is central to post-2015 development agreements and targets.

Campaigns

17. A number of global campaigns have been launched to galvanize multi-stakeholders into making commitments to disaster risk reduction. These continue to evolve and guide sustained action, including at the subnational level. One such campaign, which is entitled "Making cities resilient: my city is getting ready!", was launched in 2010 to address issues of local governance and urban risk. The campaign's 34 partners, including academia and global networks of cities, promote urban disaster risk reduction with agreed goals and targets. The number of cities that had committed to the campaign as of February 2015 totalled 2,481.

Next steps

18. The online system established for registering national announcements and voluntary commitments by stakeholders will remain open as a public space for introducing targeted plans for implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Opportunities to track implementation will be provided through Global Platform meetings, regional platforms and other means, as appropriate.

Published government announcements

Afghanistan

Risk assessment and mitigation for localized disasters in the context of the mountain community

Armenia

Information and communication for effective disaster risk reduction

Belarus

Contribution to establishing the research and scientific platforms for the development and implementation of innovative solutions in the field of disaster risk reduction, and to fostering public partnerships

Bulgaria

Voluntary commitment

Cameroon

Civil defence as a millennium goal for development

Programme d'actions de Yaoundé 6

Colombia

Sistema de alertas tempranas (early warning system)

Côte d'Ivoire

National platform for disaster reduction

Croatia

Plans to integrate disaster risk reduction measures

France

Commitments

Latvia

Council conclusions on the needs of persons living with disabilities throughout the disaster management cycle

Nepal

Local disaster reduction management plan

National initiation of action to foster community resilience

Netherlands

Commitment on behalf of the Government towards the implementation of the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework for action

Serbia

Commitment to disaster risk reduction

Slovenia

Commitment of the Government

Sri Lanka

Tsunami risk reduction in Galle

Tajikistan

National platform for disaster risk reduction

Turkey

Call, in Turkey, by safe schools leaders for a worldwide initiative on safe schools

Published voluntary commitments by stakeholders

Ageing and Disability Task Force Pakistan

Establishing master trainers pool on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and building capacity of 100 key disaster risk reduction actors in Pakistan

ASFE (Association pour la Solidarité des Forestiers et Environnementalistes)

Prevention of natural catastrophes in Cameroon's Wouri estuary

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Commitment to strengthening Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) member States' capacity-building on risk communications for public-health emergencies

Asian Advisory Group of Parliamentarians for Disaster Risk reduction

Statement for the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)

Promotion of traditional knowledge

Promotion of quality and accountability in development

Promotion and development of the capacity of national and local civil society organizations in Asia and the Pacific

Asia-Pacific Stakeholder Group on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Disaster Risk Management and Regional Resilience Building

Support of related actions in the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction by providing guidance, strengthening capacities and monitoring progress against agreed deliverables. Piloting sex-disaggregated data

Statement of voluntary commitments

ASONBOMD (la Asociación Nacional de Bomberos Municipales Departamentales)

Children's brigades

Business and industry major group

Voluntary commitment by UNISDR private sector partnership, representing business and industry major group

Business Innovation Research Development

Risk complexity and disaster management: a review of the Uttarakhand disaster (Himalayas) (16 June 2013)

Cabo Verde Red Cross

Post-2015 sustainable development agenda to prevent and reduce risks; building and strengthening resilience

Care Society

Creation of a pool of trainers on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction

Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement (CIDCE)

Recommendations on human rights and medical management in nuclear disasters

Children, youth, child-centred organizations in Asia

Statement of voluntary commitments of the children, youth and child-centred organizations in Asia for the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Corporate Volunteer Network

Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network, Nippon Foundation, Rehabilitation International: groups for individuals and groups concerned with disability in the Asia-Pacific region. Represented by: Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (see www.didrrn.net); Nippon Foundation (see www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en/); Rehabilitation International (see www.riglobal.org)

Statement of voluntary commitments of organizations working on disability inclusion for the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Education and Training Thematic Group in Central Asia and South Caucasus

ENHANCE

Enhancing of risk management partnerships for catastrophic natural hazards in Europe

Environment and Child Concern Organization-Nepal (ECO-Nepal)

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the sectoral development planning and implementation process, extending from the national to the local level

Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

International wildfire preparedness mechanism (IWPM)

Global Risk Forum GRF Davos

International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC)

Planet@Risk: "Sharing practical know-how for improved risk management" (e-journal)

IEEE Robotics and Automation Society

Symposium on a humanitarian robotics road map for safety, security and rescue to strengthen resilience

International Association for Wind Engineering

Best solutions for structural and environmental wind-related issues

International Council for Science on behalf of the scientific and technological communities major group

International partnership for mobilizing science for action on disaster risk reduction and resilience-building

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

Creation of a resilient health-care system and protecting humanitarian action

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

"One billion coalition for resilience"

International Group for Wind-Related Disaster Risk Reduction

Wind-related disaster risk reduction

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW): affiliates in Germany and Switzerland

Prevention of the medical risks posed by a severe nuclear power plant accident

Japan CSO Coalition for 2015 WCDRR (JCC2015)

Community-based disaster risk reduction approach to nuclear emergencies

Krisoker Sor (Farmers' Voice)

Commitments to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction made by a local community in Bangladesh

MARS Practitioners Network — VERVE Volunteer Programme

Strengthening disaster and climate risk prevention and reduction programmes of from 4 to 8 host organizations, including governments, local non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in Myanmar, through technical support provided by national and regional volunteers

Miyagi Jo-Net

Seniors working together with local government and municipalities on disaster mitigation and resilience

Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago

Educational awareness for rural women and girls in rural communities

Nigerian Red Cross Society

Prevention of disaster risk

Oasis Loss Modelling Framework

Portal for the distillation and dissemination of environmental data

Observatoire National des Risques Naturels (ONRN) (National observatory for natural risks, France)

Platform for risk data-sharing and participative governance

Observatoire Volcanologique de Goma

Programme of communication and education on reducing volcanic risk in the Virunga

Pan African Institute for Development — West Africa

Partner for concerted, decent and sustainable development

Paryavaran Pratham

Preparedness and planning for disasters, leading to safe, resilient and happy communities

Peace Boat

Peace Boat Fukushima youth ambassadors

Fukushima awareness-raising campaign

Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center

Resilient cities campaign awareness; and disaster risk reduction leadership-building

Disaster relief volunteer training programme

International disaster relief response

Community emergency aid capacity-building project

Household disaster preparedness planning workshop

Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center and World Cares Center

Mutual disaster assistance partnership

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

Building disaster resilience through improved flood rescue capacity in middle- and low-income countries

Saferworld Communications

Telling stories to spark positive change

Saritsa Foundation (Saritsa Charity Trust)

Putting disaster risk reduction within reach of women, girls, persons with disabilities and older people, who constitute more than half of the world's population — (Saritsa Foundation India Way)

Sasrai-Movement

Movement for environment

SEEDS

Fostering leadership among children, youth and urban local city representatives towards building disaster and climate resilience at local level

Society of Fire and Disaster Emergency Community Conflict Agency

Youth in disaster risk reduction and environmental preparedness resilience ambassadors

Youth Beyond Disasters

Youth taking action on disaster risk reduction

Zimbabwe Project Trust

Insiza-based food and income security project